NSF International

Overview of ANSI Standards Process

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NSF Background

NSF International is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental public health and safety organization.

Bringing Industry, Regulatory and Consumers Together

Industry

Food, Water, Consumer Goods

Consumers

Media, Educators, Consumer Groups

Regulators

USDA, EPA, FDA, HC, State, Local

NSF/ANSI Water Standards - Scope

NSF has administered development of many public health standards for protection and treatment of drinking water:

- Drinking Water Treatment Units (POU/POE) (RO, Softeners, filters, pitchers) (NSF/ANSI 42, 44, 53, 53, 55, 58, 62, 177)
- Water Treatment Distribution Components & Chemicals (NSF/ANSI 60 and 61)
- Mech. Plumbing Devices (faucets, valves) (NSF/ANSI 61, Sec. 9)
- Plastic Piping & Components (NSF/ANSI 14)

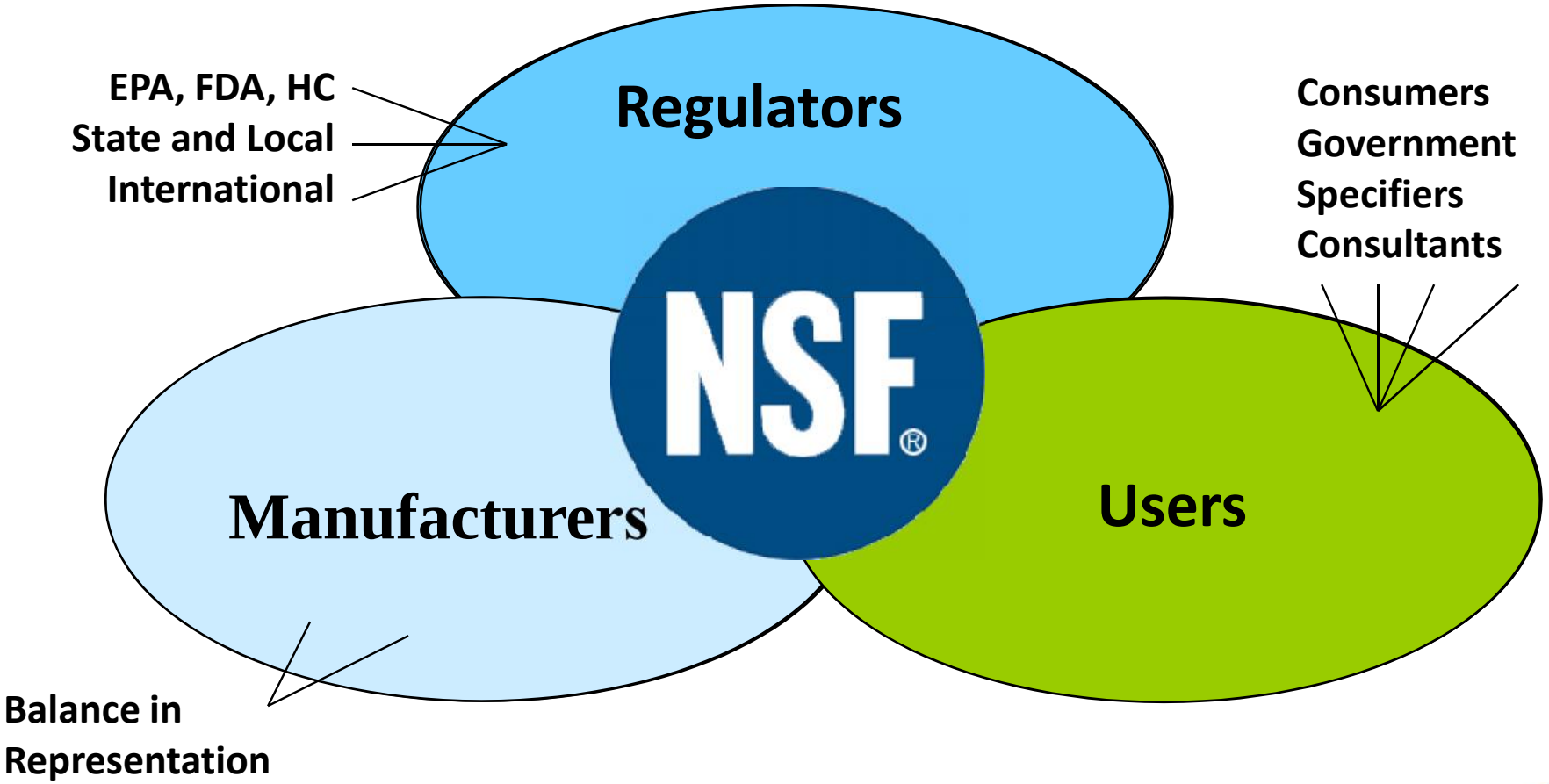
NSF/ANSI Standards

- **NSF is accredited by ANSI**
  - American National Standards Institute
- **NSF/ANSI standards are American National Standards**
- **ANSI organizes standards to assure that standard requirements do not conflict**
  - Only one American National Standard for any given aspect of any given product.

NSF Accredited Standards Development

- **NSF/ANSI Standards**
  - Intended to be used by all stakeholders
    - Certifiers
    - Manufacturers
    - Regulators
    - Consumers

NSF Consensus Standards



Structure

- **Joint Committee**
  - Voting body
  - Internet workspace
  - Physical meeting annually or semi-annually
- **Task Groups**
  - Formed on ad-hoc basis
  - Varying scope
  - Include Joint Committee members and non-members

Validation

- **Validation of test methods is critical**
  - Repeatability and Reproducibility
- **Method Validation – Key Elements**
  - Multiple laboratories
  - Identical test products
  - Ideally, failure of the test products occur
    - Ensure failure is identified similarly at each laboratory
  - Goal to determine if consistent results (not identical) results are obtainable from different laboratories/different operators

Consensus

- "Consensus" means substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interest categories. This signifies the concurrence of more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity.
- Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that an effort be made toward their resolution.
- Importance – Perspective. Each group brings a meaningful perspective based upon unique experiences/knowledge….contributes to the greater good.

Ballot Issues

- Any negative ballots must be resolved before a draft can move to the next level.
- Any substantive changes or any unresolved negative ballots must be presented to the Joint Committee so they have an opportunity to change their vote based on the new information.
- Final acceptance: 50% voting, 2/3 affirmative.

Living Documents

- **The NSF/ANSI Standards are continually under revision**
  - Changes in technology
  - Other scientific advances
    - Updated occurrence data
    - New/emerging contaminants
    - Advances in analytical chemistry
  - Changes in contaminant regulatory levels
  - Test result variability
    - Less than desired repeatability or reproducibility
    - Example: NSF/ANSI 53 Cyst Reduction
    - Example: NSF/ANSI 53 Lead Reduction pH 8.5

Certification Program

- **Evaluation of representative product models to the requirements of the standards.**
- **Initial inspection of the manufacturing facility, plus ongoing annual inspections.**
- **Retesting of products every 5 years.**

Inspections

- **The “manufacturing facility” is the final assembly location.**
- **Initial audit:**
  - Not required for every new product to be certified
  - Only if new facility for a DWTU certification
  - Announced audit
- **Annual audits:**
  - Unannounced
  - Review of manufacturing processes and materials. No unauthorized materials/components allowed.
  - Product literature review
  - Corrective Action Report
  - Products may be put on hold for non-compliance issues

Questions?